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REGISTRATION REGULATIONS IN THE GDR

The following is the complete text of the Decree on Registration of Persons in the German Democratic Republic.

Section I

All persons staying in the GDR (German Democratic Republic), whether permanently or temporarily, are required to register.

Section 2

- 1. Registration will be carried out at the competent local registration station (Meldestelle) or registration bureau (Meldeamt) of the People's Police (Volkspolizei).
- 2. The term "locally competent" applies to the registration station locality in which a person has taken up abode and is required to register, or to the registration bureau which has jurisdiction over such locality.

Section 3

- 1. Permanent residents of the GDR must have fone of the following identity documents for registration purposes:
 - a. The German identity document (Deutsche Personalausweis) for German nationals.
 - b. The German identity document for stateless persons.
 - c. The residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) for aliens.

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2. Persons with permarent residence outside the GDR must present the identity documents which are valid for their place of permanent residence.

Section 4

- 1. On moving into living quarters, persons are obliged to make a report of arrival (Anneldung) at the registration station within 3 days of arrival. If the move was made from another community, a notation of the report of departure (Abmeldund) must appear in the identity document.
- 2. If the living quarters occupied prior to the move are being retained, special attention must be drawn to this fact upon registration
- Living quarters, as defined in this decree, include every type of housing facil'ty, including sleeping accommodations.

Section 5

- 1. Fersons moving out of their living quarters must report that fact to their registration station within 3 days, together with their new address or future place of residence.
- 2. Report of departure will not be required if the change of residence is made within the same community; in that case, report of arrival at the new address, as outlined in paragraph 1, Section 4, will be sufficient.
- 3. Reports of departure made by persons who move out of their living quarters and fail to report that fact will be registered officially within a period of not more than 3 months.
- 4. Under the above-mentioned circumstances, the individual's identity document shall become involtd.

Section 6

- 1. Persons moving from one address to another must submit their identity documents when registering their arrival or departure. Children under 15 years of age must be registered by their legal guardians, and incompetents by their legal representative. If the above-mentioned representatives are not resident within the registration locale; the obligation to report to the registration station devolves upon the landlord of the party or parties in question.
- 2. If the individual subject to registration is unable to appear in person, he may authorize any member of his family who is in possession of an identity to report the departure and/or arrival on his behalf.
- 3. When an entire family changes its residence, any member of that family may register on behalf of the other members, provided he is in possession of an identity document. He or she must also present the individual identity documents of the family members so represented.
- 4. In special cases, an individual who is subject to registration may be summoned by the registration station for the purpose of supplying additional information or documents.

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Section 7

The registration station will enter the details of the report of departure and/or arrival in the identity document of the person required to register.

Section 8

- 1. Individuals required to report, in addition to persons moving into or out of living quarters, are:
 - a. Landlords, on behalf of all their tenants.
 - b. Tenants, on behalf of all persons to whom they subleace living quarters.
- 2. Landlords and tenants are required to examine the identity document or each new tenant or subtenant respectively to ascertain that the arrival has been properly recorded therein.
- 3. When a terant or subtenant moves out of his quarters, the landlord or tenant, as the case may be, is required to examine that individual's identity document to determine that the report of departure has been properly recorded therein.
- 4. Should inspection of the identity document prove that the report of arrival or departure of persons required to register has not been carried out, or in same of refusal on the part of an individual to have his identity document examined, the landlord or tenant must report this fact to the registration station within 24 hours of such a person's arrival or departure.
- If an administrator has been appointed for real property, the owner's duty to report becomes incumbent upon him.

Section 9

- 1. When visiting, for a period in excess of 3 days, friends or relatives in another community who are not commercially engaged in renting lodgings, persons registered within a community of the GNR under the provisions of Section 4 are subject to reporting their arrival or departure in the community visited. No certification of such report will be made by the police; it will be considered as informal report of arrival and departure.
- 2. If the duration of the visit exceeds 2 months, registration becomes obligatory in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.

Section 10

The Land Administration (Landesbehoerde) of the People's Police is authorized to rule that:

- In certain communities or Kreise the informal reports of arrival and departure be dispensed with, or that the 3-day deadline be extended.
- 2. In certain communities or Kreise the deadline for mandatory registration (Section 4 and 5) be reduced to 24 hours.

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Section 11

- 1. The following persons are exempt from registration:
- a. Aliens in possession of a diplomatic identity document or an identity document for mondiplomatic personnel issued by the GDR Ministry for Foreign Affairs.
- b. Aliens whose passports bear the registration entry of the Protocol Section of the CDR Ministry for Foreign Affairs.
- 2. Registration of foreign delegations who have come to the CDR by invitation of the central administration of a democratic organization shall devolve upon the host organization.

Section 12

Other persons not required to register are individuals in penal institutions, under arrest pending investigation, under protective detention, or in the custody of the police.

Section 13

- 1. Proprietors of commercial or nonprofit lodging establishments, such as inns, hotels, tourist homes, hostels, recreation rooms, directors of schools conducted by administrations, political parties, and democratic mass organizations, and heads of monasteries, establishments of religious orders, buildings utilized for devotional exercises, and homes maintained by religious groups, are required to submit to the registration station, on the special forms prescribed for that purpose, * certificate of registration for all persons lodged by them, within 24 hours after the arrival of such persons. Sports [youth] hostels and hikers shelters maintained by the German Sports Committee and its sponsoring organizations, FDJ (Free German Youth) and FDEG (Federation of Free German Trede Unions) are exempted from the foregoing provisions.
- The Land Administration of the People's Police may rule that the cortificates of registration be held available for collection and that they be submitted to the registration stations at specified times.

Section 14

- 1. Persons required to register under the provisions of Section 13 must identify themselves to the proprietor of the lodging establishment on the basis of the identity documents specified in Section 3. The registration certificate must be filled out and signed personally by such individuals. The information given in the registration certificate must be identical with that contained in the identity document.
- 2. A separate registration certificate must be filled out for each person. The number of children under 15 must be given in the registration certificates of their legal guardians.
- 3. Any guest who refuses to present his identity documents, or to fill out and sign the registration certificate, will not be quarterd. In such event the People's Police must be notified at once.

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Section 15

- 1. If sojourn at any of the places listed in Section 13 exceeds 2 months, the person quartered will then be required to register in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 and 5.
- 2. The individual furnishing living quarters will, in turn, be subject to the regulations in Section 8.

Section 16

- 1. The proprietors of establishments such as are listed in Section 13 wre required to maintain a guest register in book form, giving the details contained in the registration certificate and the date of departure. The official stamp of the registration bureau must be affixed to the register before it is put into use.
- 2. Upon request, the guest register is to be made available to the People's Police, and, by order of the Land Administration of the People's Police, to other administrative offices. It is to be retained for a period of 5 years from the date of the last entry.

Section 17

In event the proprietor cannot personally perform the obligations listed in Sections 13 to 16 inclusive, these obligations become incumbent upon the head of the enterprise or his deputy; in the case of a juridical person, they become incumbent upon his legal representative.

Section 18

- 1. In the case of individual Kreise or communities, the Land Administration of the People's Police may rule that the provisions of Section 13 ff. must also be complied with by other persons who furnish ledgings to travelers, sliens, and vacationers.
- 2. The Land Administration of the People's Police may order that in certain communities or Freise which have especially heavy Sunday and week-and traffic, persons furnishing lodgings in accordance with Sections 13 and 17 need not submit certificates of registration for persons lodged only from the night before the Sunday or holiday until the morning after such day. Such guests will not be required to fill out a certificate of registration, provided their arrival and departure are entered on the guest register.

Section 19

- 1. The heads of the sports and hikers' hostels of the German Sports Committee and its sponsoring organizations are required to maintain a guest register containing the information detailed in Section 14, and also the date of the guests' departure.
- 2. In the case of hikers' groups having more than ten members who belong to a democratic organization, and whose leader has a youth leader identity curd (Jugendausweis), only the leader's personnel data and the number of participants in his group need be entered in the guest register.

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3. The guest register is to be turned over to the "copie's Felice end, by order of the Land Administration of the People's Felice, to other administrative offices, and must be retained for a period of 5 years from the date of the last entry.

Section 20

- 1. The directors of hespitals, clinics, lying-in hospitals, sanatoriums, medical institutions, and similar establishments are required to register the following categories of persons without delay:
- a. Persons brought in with gunshot or knife wounds, or with injurical caused by blows or cuts, or in any other condition which may be assumed to have resulted from punishable behavior. The type of injury or the condition of the individual is to be specified at the time of registration.
- b. Persons the circumstances of whose admission, or whose own statements, indicate that they are mentally difficent, that they have tried to evade punishment through flight, or that they have escaped from places of confinement.
- c. Persons over 15 years of age who are admitted without a valid identity document.
- 2. Reports concerning persons in the categories listed in paragraph 1. above must be made one registration form for hospitals (Meldeschein fuer Krankenhauser).
- 3. The directors of institutions listed in paragraph 1 above are further required to maintain records on all persons, in book, card, or pad form. These records must contain accurate personal data, as well as the dates of admittance and dismissal. Such records will be made available to the registration station upon request. They will be retained for a period of 5 years from the date of the last entry.

Section 21

- 1. Section 20 is also applicable to directors of mental hospitals, nursing homes, day nurseries, reformatories, and similar establishments.
- 2. In event an individual stays in any of the institutions listed in paragraph 1 above in excess of 2 months, the general registration regulations set forth in Section 4 will apply, regardless of the age of the persons in question. The director of the institution will be responsible for compliance with the registration requirements.

Section 22

Persons who are not registered in the DCR in accordance with the provisions of Section 4, who have not taken up residence as described in Section 4 or 13, but who move about from place to place, must report to the competent registration station immediately upon arrival, or, at the latest, on the morning following arrival at each new place. They will present their identity document to the registration station.

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